

SEE BRITISH SOLDIERS CRUCIFIED BY BOCHES

U. S. Engineers at Front Hear Awful Tales of German Barbarity

NUNS PITIABLE VICTIMS

Canadians and Scots, Knowing Enemy, Neither Give Nor Ask Quarter

NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Crucifixion of Canadian and Scottish soldiers by Germans on the western front, with wholesale outrages on nuns in captured convents, are given by members of the Eleventh United States Engineer Regiment in letters received here today as the causes of a determination they express to fight to a finish and to give or take no quarter.

"If all of America could hear the horrible tales these refugees tell and see the country about us here," says one letter, "there would be 5,000,000 American soldiers training for war and war loans would be ever-subscribed by billions."

One of the officers of the regiment, in a letter to Robert Hedges, of the Public Service Commission, writes: "The devastated country and villages destroyed by shellfire, I suppose, must be expected. But the thing that makes one boil is the absolutely unnecessary and wanton destruction wrought by the retreating Hun. His usual wonderful and systematic methods have been applied to this destruction. Whole towns that have hardly been touched by shellfire have been completely destroyed by dynamite. We find notches cut in the few standing walls and marked with the size of the charge to be used. Evidently every building had been systematically prepared in that way, long in advance, for blowing up upon retirement."

EVEN GRAVES DESPICED "So houses, beautiful chateaus, garden walls, little summer houses are all blown up. Shade trees, flowering shrubs are cut down or the bark cut so the trees will die. Cemeteries have been ransacked; graves and vaults opened; bones thrown about or in heaps on the ground. I have seen countless numbers of awful sights, one body dragged half way out of the caasket; coffins broken open and the bones from several dumped into one. Evidently the boches was looking for jewelry, was simply milking, or looting."

"These things could not be done without the knowledge and permission of the officers, and the fact is so complete that it looks as though it was all a part of an official program. I never did believe the stories we got in America of the outrages. I have to believe them now, as they are many times worse than the stories that I heard at home. Certain Canadian and Scottish battalions take no prisoners. The reason is that the boches has several times crucified the Canadian and Scotch prisoners and held them above the trenches in view of their battalions."

ATTACKED WITHOUT ORDERS "In one such case a Canadian battalion went right over the top after the boches without orders. Very few of them came back. A British captain told me that he knows personally of a Belgian convent where they found the boches had several times crucified the Canadian and Scotch prisoners and held them above the trenches in view of their battalions."

"I cannot understand what the mental operations or processes of the Hun can be. It must be the wrathful spirit of a disappointed, degenerate mind. In fairness to our many very fine acquaintances of German and Austrian make I will say that the German prisoners I have seen appear to be largely a different type from the German in America. They look not as particularly intelligent. Major — does not agree with me, in this. He says he can see among them the counterpart of every German he ever knew."

"The prisoners will not believe that we are American troops. They say, 'No, it is impossible. Our submarines have stopped all traffic between America and Europe.' That is the way with the German soldier, and I suppose every one in Germany is kept in ignorance of the true situation."

Bolsheviki Declare Revolt Is Doomed

Continued from Page One Revolutionary Socialists, 12,200; other parties, 2,900. Fifth army—Maximalists, 145,000; Revolutionary Socialists, 45,000; other parties, 26,000. Army of Finland—Maximalists, 20,000; other parties, 20,000. Krasnoyarsk—Maximalists, 12,000; Revolutionary Socialists, 3,000; Cadets, 2,000. Krostroma district—Maximalists elected four delegates and the Revolutionary Socialists, four. Kaluga district—Maximalists claim the district, but the town of Kaluga is apparently carried by the Cadets.

U. S. ENGINEERS READY TO GIVE AID TO RUSSIA

PETROGRAD, Dec. 15.—American engineers have been offered the Bolshevik Government for reorganization of railroads and motor lorries for the transport of food. Foreign Minister Trotsky declared today in an address to the grenadier regiment. "It is impossible to reform the political and social construction of a month," he declared. "We have already started our efforts to introduce a program. We have given land to the peasants and we have authorized the crushing of those who are seeking to prevent us in our aims. We have started toward peace. Nobody will be able to undo what has already been done."

RUSSIA NOT BANKRUPT, SAYS AMBASSADOR

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 15.—Russia will be able to pay her obligations—the only obstacle is unwillingness of the Bolsheviks to do so, is the opinion of Russian Ambassador Guikewitch. "So far as the future is concerned," he said today, "the phantom of Russian bankruptcy is merely the outcome of shaken nerves."

SERBIAN WAR MISSION HERE

It Will Devote Most of Its Time to Recruiting NEW YORK, Dec. 15.—Captain Sadan Gayitch and nine other members of the Serbian War Mission, who arrived at an American port yesterday by a French liner, will establish headquarters in this city, and will devote most of their energy to recruiting Serbians in America for service in the war.

WILL REMAIN NEUTRAL

Switzerland Tells World of Determination to Avoid Belgium's Plight WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Answering the recent United States message to her, Switzerland today informed the world that she will maintain her neutrality with her "own forces and will repeat a violation of her frontier if this occurs."

Marines Help Catch Fugitive

Merle Anesto, of Taskerville, Pa., was arrested last night charged with stabbing a policeman and a civilian. Marines helped catch the fugitive.

Trust Chief Doubts Word of Spreckels

Continued from Page One growers five cents a pound, as contemplated.

This compares with 2.29 cents in 1907, 2.74 three years ago and 4.76 last year, Spreckels stated.

The Hoover committee, which created a "sugar shortage," according to Claus Spreckels, is packed with former employees of the "Sugar Trust," was also charged.

Even the watchmen are former watchmen. American Sugar Refining Company," said Spreckels, "and E. E. Hooker, former trust employee, is a steering committee of one to whom all the business is referred, with the committee must apply when entering its office."

Among those whom Spreckels named as holding important positions with the sugar trust were Harry C. McMillan, formerly buyer for the "sugar trust," now buyer for the committee, and E. T. Gibson, former private secretary to Earl Kitchin, head of the "sugar trust," and now secretary to the sugar committee.

Spreckels said he had protested against having refiners fix the price of sugar and against Hoover's appointment of the Hoover committee to investigate the international committee.

Spreckels said he had declined to head a sugar price committee because he was an honest man and a business man, and with the committee must apply when entering its office."

Spreckels produced a letter from George Rolph, chairman of the Hoover committee, dated December 10, in which Rolph stated the state Department had been negotiating with the Cuban government regarding price and supply of sugar. This was the first Spreckels had heard of such negotiations, he said.

Judge Lindley, counsel for Hoover, intimated that the high price for Cuban sugar was being arranged for some diplomatic reason. Lindley also denied that the food administration had fixed the price of beet sugar.

"We have no control of price, only under licensing of wholesalers," he said. Chairman Reed tried to get Lindley to admit the Hoover committee had been virtually price-fixing.

Rolph, Hoover's sugar expert, who was in the room, was asked by Lindley to clear up the Cuban sugar situation. Rolph said he had several interviews with the state Department and the Cuban commission on the subject.

Questioning by Senator Reed emphasized that the price of sugar was being fixed without consulting any representatives of the consuming public. "Great indignation was manifested," Rolph and other representatives of the food administration at the hearing over the committee's refusal to let them cross-examine Spreckels.

Turning from the Cuban case situation to domestic beet sugar, Reed brought from Spreckels the statement that beet farmers are not profiting by the price fixed for beet sugar.

"The best-sugar factories are getting the profit," said Spreckels. He produced a telegram from Food Administrator Hoover of California, in which Hoover, stating that California beet-sugar growers would not plant their usual acreage unless the food administration guaranteed them the price of the beet-sugar industry," Spreckels added.

The next chapter in Spreckels' revelations concerned alleged "throwing of the book" on sugar contracts by the Hoover committee. Spreckels read correspondence showing that Babst and Rolph had tried to get Spreckels to cancel a contract for sugar with the British Royal Commission, through which France and England were being supplied, on the technical ground that the commission's agreement had not provided tonnage to transport the sugar within a specified time.

Spreckels refused to cancel his contract and was told, he testified, that he might as well release it for the domestic market "because there would be no ships to carry it abroad before January 1."

"I did release the sugar," said Spreckels, "and was notified by the royal commission's agent shortly thereafter that ships would be provided in December to ship the sugar."

"Why did the Sugar Trust, through Babst, try to get you to cancel your contract?" Reed wanted to know. "The Sugar Trust had canceled its contract. It stood to sell the sugar in this country at a higher price than that for which the royal commission had contracted to pay. The trust wanted my support. They wanted to be able to tell the royal commission that all the American refiners felt the same way about shipping sugar abroad at this time."

"Was that sugar needed in this country?" asked Senator Jones, of New Mexico. "Yes, it was," said Spreckels. "Was it needed in France?" asked Reed. "Even more urgently than here," said Spreckels. "I pointed that out in my letters. In addition I had signed a contract to deliver that sugar to the royal commission's agents and I simply would not throw up that contract on a wretched technicality."

DEATH OF 11 AMERICAN SOLDIERS IS REPORTED

First Lieutenant Among Those to Succumb in France, Pershing Reports WASHINGTON, Dec. 14.—The War Department has received from General Pershing announcement of the following deaths from natural causes: First Lieutenant George M. Anderson, engineer, December 10, influenza, Camp Sherman, Ohio; Corporal William J. Harwood, pneumonia, Camp Sherman, Ohio; Private Maurice J. Capron, coast artillery corps, December 9, natural causes; Private Harold Verner, December 9, pneumonia; and Private Hendrick Bruhat, December 9, pneumonia.

WASHINGTON EXPLAINS ARMY CLOTHES DELAY

Responsibility Placed on Makers of Supplies and Congestion of Traffic WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Delays by manufacturers of materials and by manufacturers of clothing, and also by congestion of traffic conditions, is responsible for delivery delinquencies of from 5 to 48 per cent on clothing contracts to supply the American army, the quartermaster general announced today.

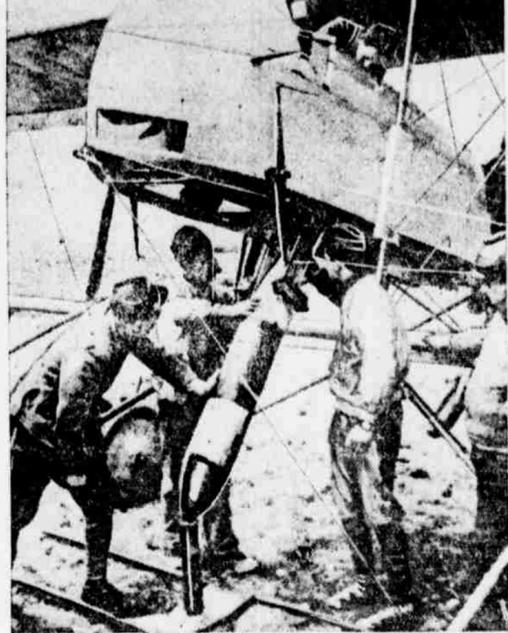
WILL REMAIN NEUTRAL

Switzerland Tells World of Determination to Avoid Belgium's Plight WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Answering the recent United States message to her, Switzerland today informed the world that she will maintain her neutrality with her "own forces and will repeat a violation of her frontier if this occurs."

Marines Help Catch Fugitive

Merle Anesto, of Taskerville, Pa., was arrested last night charged with stabbing a policeman and a civilian. Marines helped catch the fugitive.

ATTACHING BOMBS TO FRENCH PLANES



Expert skill is required in loading bombs on French airplanes prior to a bombing expedition. The photograph shows the pilot performing the most difficult stage of the work, inserting the tail-planes to pass smoothly up the tube to the length of the cylindrical bomb-chamber.

Tommies Win Back Part of Lost Trench

Continued from Page One feated three times in battle at Ypres while trying to break the British line.

"All along the front, from the North Sea to the Swiss Alps, the German guns are in action and the re-encorements of artillery from the east are already making themselves evident. Huge stores of ammunition have been released by the Russian breakdown, and this is being used up in continued bombardments that pause neither for darkness nor stormy weather."

Haig's Plan Nullified by Cambrai Setback

Continued from Page One definiteness which the occasion demanded. Peace overtures to Prussia at the moment when her military spirit was drunk with boastfulness would be a betrayal of his trust, Premier Lloyd George declared in his speech at Grosvenor.

PREMIER DEMANDS GREATER SACRIFICES

LONDON, Dec. 15.—Peace overtures to Prussia at the moment when her military spirit was drunk with boastfulness would be a betrayal of his trust, Premier Lloyd George declared in his speech at Grosvenor.

60 TEUTON DIVISIONS ALONG ITALIAN FRONT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Sixty Austro-German divisions are operating against the Italians in northern Italy, according to accurate figures gathered by the war ministry at Rome and forwarded to Washington today.

COAL FAMINE AFFECTS MATERIAL INDUSTRIES

Fuel Administration Blames Situation on Railroads and Urges Immediate Improvement WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Complete relief from the nationwide coal shortage can only be attained through immediate and radical improvement in the railway situation. Officials of the fuel administration so informed Senators and Representatives today.

WILL REMAIN NEUTRAL

Switzerland Tells World of Determination to Avoid Belgium's Plight WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—Answering the recent United States message to her, Switzerland today informed the world that she will maintain her neutrality with her "own forces and will repeat a violation of her frontier if this occurs."

DISPERATA LOTTA A COL DELLA BERRETTA

I Teutoni Mantengono Alcune Posizioni ma le Linee Italiane sono Salde

VIOLENTI ATTACCHI

ROMA, 15 dicembre. Da un comunicato ufficiale, pubblicato ieri dal Ministero della Guerra in Roma, si apprende che dopo ripetuti attacchi offensivi durante tutto il giorno, sulle posizioni tra i fiumi Brenta e Piave, gli austro-tedeschi riuscirono a fare un solo ed insignificante guadagno, nel Taltro, ma con immenso sacrificio.

Il quasi trascurabile terreno guadagnato dal nemico fu a nord della linea di Monte Solarolo ed alla testa della collina di Chelmo. Negli attacchi operati in questa zona, gli austro-tedeschi riportarono perdite gravissime.

Un telegramma giunto stamane dalla fronte di battaglia annuncia che i teutonici hanno riacquisito i loro attacchi contro le posizioni italiane.

Prigionieri catturati dalle forze del generale Diaz hanno oggi dichiarato che le perdite verificatesi nei ranghi delle truppe austro-tedesche furono combinate a far vacillare il morale dei soldati ed un certo tenacemente sempre aumentante si nota quando le orde assaltrici vengono forzate alla carica sotto il fuoco delle artiglierie.

Il comandante delle forze teutoniche a tale riguardo ha adottato misure coercitive. A tutte le truppe austriache e tedesche vengono fatte promesse per un migliore nutrimento e migliore alloggio, mentre se rifiutano ad avanzare nelle pianure italiane.

Gli aerei del nemico sono concentrati sulle linee italiane nel salotto del Sella, costantemente mantenendo l'offensiva in questo punto le posizioni austro-tedesche saranno alquanto sicure, ma qualora gli attacchi vengono fatti a Fiumi Brenta e Piave, il nemico riesce a mantenere alcuni trinceramenti ed Col Berretta e sulla sommità di Monte Spina, ma che tutto il resto delle linee italiane si trovano nelle originali posizioni. Tali combattimenti rappresentano il terzo ed inutile attacco delle forze austro-tedesche per avanzare attraverso le pianure.

L'ultimo attacco fu condotto in massa e le fanterie nemiche avanzarono rapidamente. Gli italiani furono costretti temporaneamente ad indietreggiare in un punto, ma quasi subito ricadde nella maggior parte delle loro posizioni.

La battaglia per il controllo della strategica punta di Col della Berretta e per il controllo della linea di Chelmo, da entrambi le parti sono considerati. Verso il basso corso della Piave gli austriaci prendono vantaggio che le truppe austro-tedesche hanno guadagnato a occupare una villa vicino la laguna di Venezia, in prossimità di Cavallino. Il cacciatore italiano "Sauro," di reato delle linee italiane, ha un contingente di marini i quali distrussero la villa con le mitragliatrici. Il telefono ed altri impianti che gli austriaci avevano installato, sono stati distrutti.

Un telegramma da Londra annuncia la pubblicazione a Vienna di uno dei soldati e bugiardi bollettini ufficiali austro-tedeschi. La notizia, secondo il comando austriaco avrebbe rapportato che una statistica fatta circa i rinnovati attacchi alla fronte nordica italiana, durante i quali sono stati catturati 293 cannoni, 233 mitragliatrici ed una inesa quantità di materiale da guerra.

INFLUX OF WAR AIDS OVERCROWDS CAPITAL

Government Will Build Barracks to House Army of Civilians WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—A barracks city on the Potomac to house its large and rapidly growing army of civilian war aids will be built by the American Government.

Emergency workers already here have overwhelmed public and private living conveniences.

There are not enough houses. No more can be built because contractors cannot get materials or prices are too high. Rents are prohibitive. The minimum for two rooms very recently furnished is \$65 a month, and none to be had at that. Real estate men are cleaning up. One agent who raised the rent on the house occupied by another agent said to him:

"We've been staying here for years. Now we're going to get what is coming to us, and you're no exception."

Hotels are filled to overflowing all the time. Boarding-house proprietors, mostly females, are reaping a golden harvest.

Don't Waste Your Money

Buying Christmas presents that don't last. Be sensible—get the best. A Majestic Electric Heater will return big dividends in solid comfort—just the thing to warm up the bathroom before you take that morning plunge. Handy—clean—economical.

Guaranteed for one year. WALKER & KEPLER 531 Chestnut Street 1886—"The Best of Things Electric"—1917

HOTEL COLONNADE

15TH & CHESTNUT STS. EVERY SUNDAY EVENING six to nine

Concert De Luxe

Service A La Carte PROGRAM Fifth Concert

- 1. March, Lorraine... 2. Valse, Dolores... 3. Selection, Miss Springtime... 4. Dance, Bolero... 5. Fantasia, Sanson and Della... 6. Two Songs... 7. Suite, Peer Gynt... 8. Chanson Indoue... 9. Suite, Rimsky-Korsakov... 10. Ballet, Coppelia... 11. Selected... 12. Selected... ENILE COLEMAN, Director

15 INJURED IN WEIRD TROLLEY SMASH-UP

Coach Going 40 Miles an Hour Gives Imitation of British Tank Rampant HOLYOKE, Mass., Dec. 15.—Fifteen persons were slightly injured in a spectacular smash-up here today when a Springfield-bound trolley car, going forty miles an hour, took the wrong track, jumped the rails, clipped off two iron electric light poles, rode up over a ten-inch curbing and then slid over a four-story block, pulling down the whole front.

FLAT CAR JUMPS TRACK AND DEMOLISHES HOUSE

Also Destroys Show Equipment, With Total Loss of Five Thousand Dollars LANCASTER, Pa., Dec. 15.—A Pennsylvania Railroad flat car that was being shifted ahead of an engine, jumped the rails on Water street this afternoon, ran 100 feet on the ground and crashed through a large brick warehouse owned by George Steinman, demolishing it. A show equipment used in the city was destroyed. The total loss was nearly \$5,000.

U. S. BIG USER OF PAPER

More Than 100,000,000 Pounds Needed for Government This Year WASHINGTON, Dec. 15.—More than 100,000,000 pounds of paper, about three times the amount used in normal years, will be required for Government printing this year. The cost will be about \$4,000,000.

Another big increase is expected next year for the War Department has asked an expenditure of \$2,000,000 for paper, or ten times its normal amount.

As an economy measure and to relieve some of the burden of the Postoffice Department the committee decided to issue paper of lighter weight for the Congressional Record.

German Officer Waits for Laundry Before He Surrenders

WITH THE AMERICAN ARMY IN FRANCE, Dec. 15.—Details of how two American engineers with the British army were notified by the same shell were received here today. The men were stripping ballast from a small railway when a shell burst amid a pile of picks and shovels left by their comrades. The explosion filled the air with bits of steel and flying tools, which struck the two engineers, knocking them to the ground.

An American officer, who had just returned from the British front where he was receiving instruction in the use of automatic weapons, reported that a German officer crawled across "No Man's Land," raised his hands in token of surrender when he reached the barbed wire entanglements and called out: "Excuse me if I lower my hands, but I want to pick up a package I have here with me."

The British Tommies covered the German with their guns while he climbed down into the trench. He had a package with him which proved to be a bundle of freshly washed laundry. Upon being questioned by the astonished British, the German explained: "I made up my mind to surrender a week ago, but I didn't want to lose my clothes, so I waited until the orderly brought my laundry."

Six representatives of Food Conservator Hoover arrived at the American camp last night after visiting headquarters and lunching with General Pershing. They are gathering information about living conditions. In the party are Roscoe R. Mitchell, of Buffalo; Daniel Reed, Julius Lincoln, John S. Lord, Edward F. Kretz, of Chicago, and Everett Colby.

The commissioners ate with the doughboys today to learn exactly what food is being served to Americans in the field.

1832 BAILEY, BANKS & BIDDLE CO. 1917 Diamond Logrons Artistically fashioned with Chains to match



Christmas Dainties for Christmas Dinners

Recipes for Christmas Canape Fruit Supreme Bouillon a la Holiday Oyster Soup Roast Turkey Wild Duck Giblet Gravy Apple Stuffing Minced Giblets on Toast Brussels Sprouts Hollandaise Corn Pudding Peas Maitre d'Hotel Candied Sweet Potatoes Evergreen Salad Good Luck Salad Yuletide Plum Pudding Olde Tyme Fruit Cake King Fruit Cake Almond Jumbles Pastry Slices Honey Cakes Seed Cakes Creamed Dates Popcorn Balls Fudge

By Mrs. M. A. Wilson Cuisiniere to Queen Victoria

In the Magazine Section of Tomorrow's PUBLIC LEADER